

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended. Claim 12 has been canceled. Claims 1-11 and 13-14 remain in the application and are presented for further consideration.

Claims 1, 3-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,256,407 issued to Seiderman in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,345,043 issued to Bovagne. Claims 1, 6 and 11, as amended, disclose "wherein the drive shaft extends substantially vertically and the first blade shaft and the second blade shaft are substantially angled from the vertical position." Seiderman discloses an assembly wherein the drive shaft 32, and the blade assembly shafts 38 and 40 are all substantially vertical. Therefore, Seiderman does not disclose angling the blade shafts while maintaining the vertical position of the drive shaft. Bovagne discloses each blade assembly having its own drive shaft. Therefore, Bovagne does not disclose a single drive shaft driving both blade assemblies. Furthermore, Bovagne shows a drive shaft 15 that has the same angle of inclination as the blade assembly shaft 14. The cited references do not individually or in combination disclose a vertical drive shaft with angled blade shafts.

The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the angle of inclination of the blades shown in the Seiderman reference. Applicant respectfully disagrees. If the blade shafts of the Seiderman device are angled (while maintaining the vertical angle of the drive shaft) the blade assemblies would disengage from the drive shaft, rendering the unit inoperable. Accordingly, claims 1, 6 and 11 are patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 2-5, 7-10, and 13-14 are dependent on claims 1, 6 and 11, respectively and contain additional features that patentably distinguish the claims from the cited references.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues that can be resolved by telephone conference or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: May 24, 2005

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathy Mojibi", written over a horizontal line.

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